

District Parent Council Minutes

May 20, 2024 12:00 – 2:30pm, OPS District Administration Building

Attendees: Karen Shapiro, Mario Martinez, Brian Lieber, Sarah Allen, Stacy Smith, Tamara Marshall, Kristin Hundt, Sage Hales-Ho, Amanda Patton, Tere Blanca, Susan Williams, Corrinne Dyksen, Mary Gebara

Via Zoom: Liz Luyendyk

Welcome and Introductions - *Karen Shapiro*

Superintendent's Report - *Mario Martinez, Director of HR*

- Also giving the report - Sue Williams, HR Specialist (6 Okemos graduates)
- Not a lot of turnover this year. OHS - no retirements, Chippewa and Elementary schools - single digits.
- Post PT gym and preschool new specialists; possible elementary teacher.
- Food Services, Operations always in need of staff
- Amanda Patton, Director of Food Ops - Big new project - **5K Fundraiser** (with Mike Devlin and others) to raise \$10 - 20K for 1 or 2 **new Wolves costumes**. Same company that did Sparty. Date of run: Saturday 8/24/24 - 9am -1pm. There will be stadium entertainment dance team, Fabricated Customs pop-up, concessions/food trucks. \$20 for smaller races, \$25 for 5K. Get a t-shirt and a medal. Contest between schools. Trane, McClaren, and other sponsors already. End of this week sign-ups will go out. (School starts 8/21).
- Question - Corrinne - What is the annual budget for costumes? Cleaning/repairing? Minimal. The costume would go to all the schools/big events.
- Once the costumes are bought, future fundraiser \$ could go to other things like a marquis sign.
- Question - What is the cost of doing the 5K. Answer: still working on budget. (Security, McClaren nursing station, signage, Playmakers). Trying to roll costs into the admission fee.

Speaker - *Brian Lieber, Operations Director*

- He's been in the District since he was 3 years old! Wife and kids at OPM and Kinawa.
- Previously worked 19 years at a private company. He has a different vision and looking forward to change.
- **Bond:** Chippewa, Cornell, Kinawa. Also little projects but need to see how the big costs progress. 3 new buildings in 6 years.
- May 29th - west side of Chippewa closed for construction.
- OPM can bring back old fields for use. Old Varsity stays, plus will use Kinawa/Dobie fields more.

- Years 3 & 4 - Cornell at Chippewa. Have to save all material (expensive and needed).
- “Filter First” requirements - Water coolers at Cornell so not to open walls (expensive). Add 6 fountains into OHS. 1 per 100 or access to filtered water.
- Already scheduled games will be moved. Contact the Township.
- Grounds crews: trouble keeping up in the spring. Need more modern equipment. Budget for next year. Need better planning: Maintenance in old vs. buying better new. Goals: figure out inefficiencies. Adopt value-added based thought, and health and safety #1 issue.
- Needs vs. Wants. Custodial need - not enough; issues with people not showing up. Cornell - contractor. All schools using the same company. (After school we don't use OPS people). This summer: new standard for “clean”
- Cornell - issues with kitchen cleanliness (Food Services issue). Okemos people are operations - just floors and trash.
- Question: Stacey S - lunchroom help: need more at Hiawatha. Answer: Mario - Hard finding PT people; make it worth someone's time/money.
- We will invite him back for updates next year.

Board of Education Report - Mary Gebara

- Adopting 200 new policies (with Thune Law Firm). 35 more to go through.
- Tonight - Gun safety legislation - Governor's new resolution. Asking OPS families to sign a letter: pledge for gun safety.
- June 6th, 5:30 pm - big groundbreaking ceremony at Chippewa
- Wrapped up the Start Times committee. They know and agree with the science of starting later BUT: we would be the only ones doing it (which causes scheduling issues) and it's an after school disaster. The push now is for County collaboration/talk to ISD.
- Will cost \$5M for 2 year Cornell bussing to Chippewa
- Hiawatha carline issue: so much opposition; so much \$. Pushed to 2026-27 school year. Playground equipment moving forward.
- Target for new website this summer.

School Reports

OHS – Sarah Allen, Karen Shapiro, Liz Luyendyk

Chippewa –Tere Blanca, Carly Pate

Kinawa – Liz Luyendyk, Leah Kwapis, Amanda Brush

Cornell – Kristin Hundt

OPM – Sage Hales-Ho and Mike Callahan

Bennett Woods – Jane Manfredi, Tamara Marshall

Hiawatha–Jessica Savage, Stacey Smith

Action Items

*DPC Representatives for 2024-25, including new President & Secretary
2024-2025 meeting dates and potential speakers*

- Brian Lieber (OPS Bond update)
- Mikayla & Shannon (communications and social media)

- Food Services

BOE Elections

- Will ask Mikayla to record the BOE candidate forum
- July deadline for candidates. 4 open seats: Andy, Katie, Melanie & Jayme. 2 will run again.

Next Meeting: Thank you for all for your time, see you next year.

- Will do late August Zoom to start preparing for the BOE candidates forum. TBD.

Adjourn

Email: Districtcouncil48864@gmail.com

Website: www.okemosk12.net – Families – District Parent Council

Building Reports

OHS

- The Jolly Road entrance will be unavailable for all students, parents, and visitors. We are relocating our office to the gym entrance.
- COMMENCEMENT: May 29th. Breslin Center. Doors open at 6. No tickets or guest limit. All are welcome!
- Prom and After Prom were held last Saturday.

Chippewa

- Teacher appreciation week went well. Did different treats daily: potluck, popcorn bar, gift cards and more.
- Walk/run - included foam party.
- Washington DC trip
- Upcoming field trips last week of school

Kinawa

May 21: Kinawa Orchestra Spring Concert 7:00pm - 8:00pm

May 22: Kinawa Band Concert

May 23: Kinawa Choir Concert

May 27: No School

May 28: Kinawa Parent Group - General Meeting 6:30pm - 7:30pm with election

May 29: 6th Grade Michigan Adventure Field Trip

May 31: 5th Grade Greenfield Village/Henry Ford Museum Field Trip

- Kinawa will be getting new cameras as part of the security bond work over the summer
- All families 5-12 will be receiving information regarding Securely Home. It is an app that will provide weekly reports to families regarding what their child is searching on the school issued devices.
- KPG's Buddy's Pizza Night is Wednesday, May 22nd between 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM
- All students will be keeping their school issued devices over the summer and will be asked to turn them in the first week of school to receive a new device.
- 4th Grade Move up day is Tuesday, May 21st. On this day we have every 4th grader in the district visit Kinawa.

Bennett Woods

- Bennett woods stocked the teachers lounge with a create your own drink bar and different flavors on monogrammed cups. They also got popcorn and breakfast bars and a going to the movies theme!
- Block party and field day is coming up.
- Bike to school day was great fun with a police escort.
- Bolt graduated!
- Spring clean up with boy and Girl Scout troops was a success.
- The BW staff were selected as the Girl Scout troops home town heroes.
- Mileage club is going strong.

Cornell

- Cornell is a busy place in May (where isn't!?).
- Many field trips to places like the Meridian Historic Village, zoo, and MSU children's gardens.
- Mileage club has been in full swim and just finished with our family fun night. This year we had multiple food trucks and a band, which was amazing!
- Our last PTO meeting is Wednesday morning. We are working as a PTO to come up with some more ways to streamline communication (maybe using a texting app!?) and are hoping to grow our attendance and helpers.

Central Montessori

- Met Flash Dash fundraising goal to fund PTO activities in 2024-2025 school year.
- Flash Dash and Field Day is Friday, May 24,
- Talent Show during school for 2-4 grade, and Mileage Club finishes May 23.
- Several field trips are coming up through the end of the school year.
- Final Eat out if this school year was Friday, May 17 at Make it Sweet Bakery.